

The background features a group of people, possibly a vocal ensemble, standing in a dark space illuminated by blue light. Overlaid on the image are several red, stylized decorative patterns, including starburst shapes, a central vertical motif resembling a stylized plant or figure, and various swirling lines.

# Amanda *chante* Haiti

VOCAL ENSEMBLE AMANDA

STEN KÄLLMAN

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VOCAL ENSEMBLE AMANDA  
STEN KÄLLMAN

- 1 Mwen sot anba 3:02
- 2 Legba 3:22
- 3 Papa loko 5:55
- 4 Minis Azaka 3:09
- 5 Pyè Aleman 5:44
- 6 Ezili kanot chavire 4:18
- 7 Gede nibo 5:10
- 8 Peze kafé 5:06
- 9 Gade moun 3:32
- 10 Angelina 4:10
- 11 Wangol 4:29
- 12 Priyè pou Ayiti 1:38
- 13 Mayi a gaye 2:40
- 14 Fey o 2:31
- 15 Frè o 4:20
- 16 Ayibobo/Änglar 4:43
- 17 Dey o 4:44
- 18 Ogou wa dezanj 2:48

Total time 73:38



## 1. MWEN SOT ANBA

Trad. arr. Sten Källman Music & lyrics Sten Källman

To the farmer spirit, Kouzen Zaka

Mwen sot anba nap monte ti gout dlo  
kouzen mande

Ti gout dlo kouzen mande ato pran goudèt o

Zaka Kouzen mande ayia ti gout dlo  
Kouzen! Chay la lou nap monte, kouzen  
mwen, chay la lou

Chay la lou na goumen kenbe n avanse  
Chay la lou na goumen men anpil chay la  
pa lou

*We go up into the mountains. Kouzen doesn't  
ask for much, merely a drop of water.*

*Our burdens are heavy, we struggle, we move  
ahead.*

*Many hands make the burden light.  
Catch me, I'm falling, catch me!*

"Mwen sot anba" contains a short text in Swedish,  
saying "Catch me, I'm falling ..." (Ta emot mig, jag  
faller, ta emot mig!). This connects to the vodou  
ceremony, where the possessed fall against the  
ground with trust - and are caught.

## 2. LEGBA GWETO

Trad. arr. Sten Källman

To the spirit of the crossroads, Legba, who opens the  
ceremony and the door into the spirit world

Legba Gweto ye ki lwa ou ye  
Achade li pye se pa Nago sa a  
Legba Gweto ye ki lwa ou ye

Anye Lemi Anho Anye O Lemiso o  
Anye o Lemiso o Chemen Nago bouche  
O Lemiso Batala!

## 3. PAPA LOKO - RARA PAPIYON

Trad. arr. Sten Källman Music & lyrics Sten Källman

To the messenger & spirit of the wind, Loko

Papa Loko ou se van pouse n ale  
Nou se papiyon na pote nouvel bay Agwe  
E tou sa ki di byen je m la ye  
E tou sa ki di mal o je m la ye  
Papa Loko ou se van e  
Oua pouse n ale nou se papiyon  
Na pote nouvel bay Agwe

Papa Loko pote nouvel nou pawol Papa Loko  
Na pote nouvel bay Agwe  
Papiyon! Chemen an lon na pote nouvel nou  
Papiyon! Chemen an lon na pote nouvel...  
E tou sa ki di byen je m la ye  
Tou sa ki di mal je m la ye

*Papa Loko, you are the wind. Blow on us!  
We are butterflies sweeping in from the sea,  
bringing news.*

*All that is good and all that is bad we see.  
We will tell you.*

## 4. MINIS AZAKA

Trad. arr. Sten Källman

A tribute to the spirit of agriculture, Azaka.

Minis Azaka goue lou e, anhe tonnè  
Minis Azaka goue li e, Kanot an mwen chavire  
Pase Dahome, pase Tomaso, pase Baladè  
Lè m rive Anidan Leogan o  
Minis Azaka goue lou e  
Mape di ou bonjou Azaka Mede m pral an  
pako ti e  
Azaka si Azaka la Azaka Mede mape di ou  
bonjou  
O bonjou o Minis o

Mwen prale mwen prale lavil, mwen prale la  
Na pote nouvel  
Chemen an lon se vre, nou prale lavil o  
Minis o, Azaka Mede!

*We salute you, Minister Azaka. We come from  
Dahome, Tomaso, Baladè.*

*We come to Leogan, Minis Azaka. "Greetings,  
Minister," we say.*

*I go to town, I bring news.  
The road is long, we go to town.  
Minis o, Azaka Mede!*



## 5. PYÈ ALEMAN

Trad. arr. Sten Källman

Pyè Aleman Lemiso Batala e  
Aleman se lwa dife ou ye  
Pyè Aleman Lemiso Batala e

*You are fire. The earth is a magnet. Batala, you are wisdom.*

Allt vad vi på jorden äga, det är allt  
förgänglighet.

Allt vad här vi älska plåga, är dock blott  
fåfänglighet.

Som en ström vår tid förrinner, som en  
dröm vårt liv försvinner,  
Men på denna vansklighet följer själens  
evighet.

*Our earthly belongings will turn to dust.*

*What we love but reflects our lust.*

*Time passes like the flow of a stream.*

*Our lives slip away like last night's dream.*

*But after much trouble, our souls greet eternity.*

*Folk choral from the province of Skåne, Sweden.*

The Swedish folkloric hymn speaks wisely (Pyè Aleman directs himself to the spirit of wisdom, Batala) on how our lives will perish.

## 6. EZILI KANOT CHAVIRE

Trad. arr. Sten Källman

To the goddess of love, Ezili

Ezili e o Ezili sa o  
Youn sel ti pitit m te genyen  
Kanot chavire ave kli  
M pa gen chans mezanmi, m pa gen chans o  
Sou lanmè kanot chavire

Ezili e o Ezili sa o  
Youn sel ti pitit m te genyen  
Kanot chavire ave kli  
Sou lanmè kanot chavire  
Men si se pa te Ezili  
Tout moun te neye

*Ezili, I had but the one babe.*

*The boat tipped over, my child drowned.*

*Dear friends, misfortune is upon me!*

## 7. GEDE NIBO

Music & lyrics Ludovic Lamothe Arr. Sten Källman

To the spirit of death and cemeteries, Gede Nibo  
Vinn danse woy vini chante woy vinn danse  
woy Banda Gede Nibo  
Hounsini danse hounsini vini chante hounsini  
vinn mawoule Banda Gede Nibo

*Come and dance, come and sing, join in with the Banda, Gede Nibo!*

A merengue composed for the 1934 carnival expressing joy and relief that US presence is leaving the country. Ludovic Lamothe was an immensely popular pianist in the music circles of Port-au-Prince. He was known as the "Black Chopin".

## 8. PEZE KAFÉ

Trad. arr. Sten Källman

Manman m voye m peze kafe o  
An arivan mwèn sou potay  
Men youn jandam arete m  
Woy sa ma di lakay lè m arive mezanmi  
Sa ma di lakay lè m arive

*Mother sends me to the market to sell coffee.*

*The police stop me, they take my coffee.*

*Oh, what shall I say when I get home?*

## 9. GADE MOUN

Trad. arr. Sten Källman

Well-known carnival song

Gade moun yo mwèn pa wè moun yo  
Gade moun kap pale moun mal m pa wè moun  
kap pale moun mal  
Woy . . .  
Devan byen dèyè mal o

Kote moun yo  
Pa pale pa pale pa pale  
Kote moun yo  
Pa pale moun mal, m pa wè yo

*Look at all the people. Where are all those who  
badmouth others?*

*To the face is fine, behind people's backs is bad.*

*Don't talk so much, too much nonsense is  
being said.*





## 10. ANGELINA

Music & lyrics Kandjo Dépradine Arr. Sten Källman

Angelina, Angelina chita kay manman ou  
Ti fik i pa konn lave pase Chita kay  
manmn ou  
Chita kay manman m chè  
Chita kay manman mwen chè  
Ou pa ba mwen dezagreman  
Chita kay ...

*Angelina, go home to your mother.  
You do not know how to behave in this house.*

Haiti was occupied by the USA from 1915 through 1934. Angelina was the daughter of a US marine colonel, and her name was used to symbolize America's occupational forces. Written and widely performed in the 1920s, it expressed the opinion of the Haitian people.

## 11. WANGOL

Trad. arr. Sten Källman Music & lyrics Sten Källman

Wangol o ou ale, kil è ou a vini wè m anko  
ou ale  
Ki lè ou a vini wè m anko peyi a chanje  
Ki lè ou a vini wè m anko ou ale

*Wangol, you leave. When will we meet again?  
When we do, the country will have changed.*

## 12. PRIYÈ POU AYITI

Music & lyrics Sanba Zao

Lapriyè pou moun sa yo, mwen di lapriyè  
Nou sot tann devan Bondye, sa nou wè la  
Nou soti nan ginen  
nou vinn chanje peyi a  
Nou soti nan ginen  
nou vinn chanje lakou a  
Priyè pou moun sa yo  
Ginen an tandè!

**SANBA ZAO** (Louis Lesly Marcelin) is a singer, musician and composer. A prominent figure on Haiti's modern folk music scene, he is a passionate Vodou musician with his own roots band, Zao ak Djakata, and he is also a dedicated researcher and educator affiliated with the Fine Arts department in Port-au-Prince.

Zao performed this plea for change in February 2012, in Kay Jakmel. The words mean "we come from Ginen", the traditional place of Haitian origin in Africa, "we come from Jakmel", a town in southern Haiti; "we will change our country, Haiti" (lakou a = the home).

The musician Sanba Zao runs – together with his wife – a school for poor children (Lekol Kominotè Bazilo) in the district Carrefourfeuilles in Port-au-Prince. The children pay no fees and the school is not subsidized, so Zao pays his teachers' salaries from his own pocket.

## 13. MAYI A GAYE

Trad. arr. Boukman Eksperyans

Praying for bread and peace  
Peyi a peyi a Peyi a finn tonbe  
Peyi a peyi a Peyi a kangoule  
Mayi a gaye ewa ewa mayi a gaye e e timoun  
yo pran lwa  
Jou pou jou lè m goumen m wè sa mal  
Mete manje nan kay la

*The country has fallen, the country is hidden by  
a mask.*

*The maize is distributed, the children carry on  
the spirit.*

*Day by day we struggle. We see the evil. Put food  
on the table.*

## 14. FEY O

Trad. arr. Sten Källman

Fey o sove lavi mwen nan mizè mwen ye o  
Pitit mwen malad mwen kouri kay gangan  
Similo!  
Pitit mwen malad mwen kouri kay gangan  
Si ou n bon gangan ou a sove lavi mwen  
Nan mizè mwen ye o!

*Herbs, save my life, I am in need.  
My child is ill, I hurry to the medicine man.  
Similo, save my child!*





### 15. FRÈ O

Trad. arr. Sten Källman Music & lyrics Sten Källman

Frè o di nou  
di maladi a pa gaya  
na jwe, na rele  
maladi a pa gaya

Na rele ou malad mwen di yo ou malad  
mwen di yo na jwe  
Papa Dambala e  
Mape mande Dambala Wedo, o gade nou!  
Nou tout chante Ayida Wedo men pitit ou  
yo!  
Na rele!

*Brother, tell us why there is no healing.  
We make music, we cry. There is no healing.*

### 16. AYIBOBO / ÄNGLAR

Trad. arr. Sten Källman Music & lyrics Sten Källman

Ayibobo, ayibobo pou sa Ayibobo  
Timoun yo lesen pal anho  
Ayibobo vinn wè lesen pal anba Ayibobo!

*Hallelujah! Children, saints speak from above.  
Hallelujah, come and see, saints speak from below.  
Ayibobo/Hallelujah! Saints speak to us from above  
and below.*

Änglar flyger ovanför  
och ser oss gå på marken  
med tunga steg, de ser på,  
andas, våra tunga steg  
går alltför fort.  
Lyssna, var är vägen?  
Vi rusar!

*Angels fly above,  
watch us walk on earth  
With heavy steps, they watch,  
breathe, our heavy steps  
move far too fast.  
Listen, where is the road?  
We hurry.*

The Swedish text delivers a view of the role of the protective spirits in vodou.

### 17. DEY O

Music trad. arr. Sten Källman  
Lyrics Toto Blissainthe

Dey o mwen rele dey o Ayiti woy  
Dey o mwen chante dey o Ayiti woy  
Ayiti cheri men pitit ou mouri  
Men lot yo toutouni sa ka pote dèy la pou  
ou woy  
Dey o ...  
Ayiti a leve, Ayiti a kanpe Ayiti a danse wo  
wo wo wo nan konbit la M rele  
Dey o ...

*Sorrow, I cry, I feel sorrow for you, Haiti.  
My beloved Haiti, see your children dying, see  
the deprivation.  
Who will bear your grief?  
Haiti, rise! Haiti, we sing and shout!*

### 18. OGOU WA DEZANJ

Trad. arr. Sten Källman after Mimerose Beau brun

Ogou is the spirit of masculinity, "the fighting spirit"  
Ogou o wa dezanj lè m sonje pitit an mwen  
chwal an mwen  
Chwal an mwen parenn Ogou chwal an  
mwen  
Lè m sonje pitit an mwen chwal an mwen  
Ogou o, djab la di lap manje mwen si se vre?  
Pa fout vre. Ogou o djab la di lap manje  
mwen si se vre.  
Men gen Bondje O gen lesen yo.  
Djab la di lap manje mwen se pa vre.  
Se pa vre timoun yo se pa vre.  
Sa se jwet timoun yo sa se blag.

*Ogou, king of angels, I miss my child, my horse.  
My horse, godfather Ogou, I miss my child.  
Ogou, the spirit says it will devour me, is that true?  
But we have God, we have the saints.  
It is a game, my children, it is not true.*





**IT ALL STARTED** back in 1970, when I went to Haiti as an exchange student at the age of 18. Inspired by their culture, their Creole language (Kreyòl) and their amazing music, I decided to introduce Haitian music to a wider audience. One way was creating arrangements for choral groups and percussion. My first attempt was “Fey O”, which became very popular and is still performed by many choral groups in Sweden today.

Creating my own versions and interpretations has always been important to me, and I’m fortunate in that my efforts are appreciated by Haitians as well.

In the late 1980s, I crossed paths with the Vocal Ensemble Amanda of Gothenburg. All of Amanda’s shows and records include Haitian songs performed in Kreyòl and the ensemble has many Haitian fans.

Another project of mine is Simbi, a band that has been around since the late 80s. Simbi has toured Haiti, the US, and France, where many Haitians live, and has provided the opportunity to join forces with top

Haitian musicians such as Lolo and Mimerose Beaubrun from Boukman Eksperyans, the folk musicians Wawa and Zao, resulting in several Swedish tours as well as concerts abroad.

In Haiti, singing and dancing is an integral part of life. Ceremonies and festive occasions feature songs that reflect the country’s strong ties to their dramatic history and their ancestors. Their culture’s rich spiritual world provides them with an artistic outlet to express joy, sorrow, and despair. This remains a huge inspiration for me as a musician and as a human being.

Listen, sing, and dance along with Amanda! *Ay-ibobo!*

*Sten Källman*

*Heartfelt thanks to the following for inspiration and music: Lolo & Mimerose Beaubrun, Wawa, Sanba Zao, Rachel Beauvoir, Markus Schwartz, Dadi Beaubrun, Toto Bissainthe, and Lavinia Williams.*



AMANDA (Singers on one or more tracks)

Anci Hjulström	Madeleine Stenmark
Andressa Quieros (solo 10)	Magnus Markling
Anette Andersson (solo 15)	Maja Berndes (solo 5)
Anna Kuuse (solo 5)	Martin Holmgren
Annika Olsson	Martin Högberg
Brita Lindgren	Martin Schaub
Carina Borgström-Källén	Mia Edvardson (solo 7)
Christopher Ek (solo 14)	Niklas Hjulström
Cilla Klein	Niklas Olsson
Daniel Dohber (solo 16)	Patrick Rydman
David Bolander	Per Helgesson
Filip Bagewitz	Per Sjösten
Francis Shaughnessy	Per Störby (solo 15)
Fredrik Lindgren	Per Wiklund
Gunilla Johansson	Peter Holmstrand
Gunn Henricson	Sanna Källman (solo 3, 6, 11, 15, 17, 18)
Henrik Bergström	Simon Leidecker (solo 4)
Ingrid Brännström (thumb piano 18)	Simon Ljungman
Jaap Knevel	Staffan Löwenadler
Jan Brunnström	Stefan Malmeström
Johan Hogenäs (solo 11; shell and bamboo 9)	Sten Källman (solo 2, 7, 13; shell and bamboo 9)
Jorge Alcaide (solo 3)	Tobias Edvardson
Karin Inde	Tomas Jönsson
Karin Lindqvist	Torbjörn Nyberg
Karin Marmander (thumb piano 18)	Tore Norrby
Karolina Nyström (solo 9)	Åsa Johansson (solo 16)
Lars Smedlund	Åse Thorsén (solo 18)
Lotta Sjölin Cederblom (solo 3, 16)	

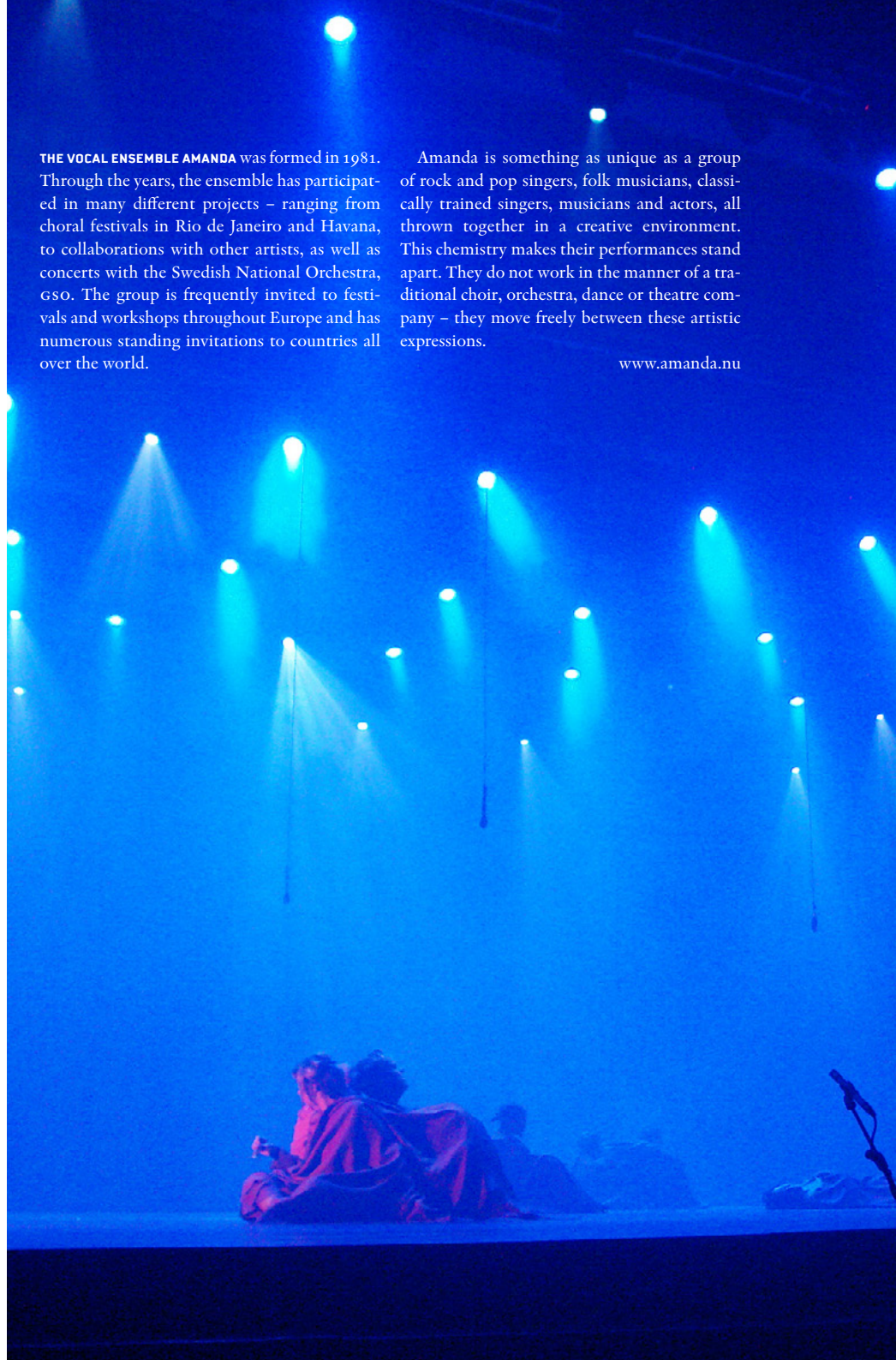
Percussionists

Michael Andersson, master drummer	Henrik Cederblom	Martin Brandqvist
Patrick Rydman	Sanna Källman	Stefan Bergman
	Sten Källman	
	Jonas Simonson foulani flute (16)	
	Guest artist Sanba Zao, vocal (12)	

THE VOCAL ENSEMBLE AMANDA was formed in 1981. Through the years, the ensemble has participated in many different projects – ranging from choral festivals in Rio de Janeiro and Havana, to collaborations with other artists, as well as concerts with the Swedish National Orchestra, GSO. The group is frequently invited to festivals and workshops throughout Europe and has numerous standing invitations to countries all over the world.

Amanda is something as unique as a group of rock and pop singers, folk musicians, classically trained singers, musicians and actors, all thrown together in a creative environment. This chemistry makes their performances stand apart. They do not work in the manner of a traditional choir, orchestra, dance or theatre company – they move freely between these artistic expressions.

[www.amanda.nu](http://www.amanda.nu)





**Papa Loco – Rara Papiyon (3), Peze kafé (8) & Wangol (11)**

From *Amanda*, Imogena Records IGCD 063

Recorded February and April 1995, Studio Bauhaus by Palle Bothén, Hans Asteberg & Ingemar Henning

Mixed in April 1995, Studio Bauhaus by Palle Bothén & Hans Asteberg, and in May 1995, Studio Bohus by Lars Diedricksson

Producers: Sten Källman & Jonas Simonson

**Ezili kanot chavire (6), Gede nibo (7) & Frè o (15)**

From *Amandandra*, Imogena Records IGCD 075

Recorded February & October 1998, Swedish Radio Studio 12 & Studio Bohus by Åke Linton & Jonas Simonson

Mixed at Studio Bohus by Åke Linton & Jonas Simonson

Producer: Jonas Simonson

**Mwen sot anba (1) & Ogou wa dezanj (10)**

From *Tres*, Footprint Records FRCD 035

Recorded May & August 2005, Apparat Studios by Henrik Cederblom & Per Sjösten

Mixed at Studio Epidemin by Henrik Cederblom

Producers: Henrik Cederblom & Per Sjösten

**Legba Gweto (2), Gade moun (9), Angelina (10), Mayi a gaye (13), Fey o (14) & Dey o (17)**

Recorded September 2010, Studio Epidemin by Per Sjösten

Mixed May–June 2012, at Sound Processing Studio by Per Sjösten

Producers: Sten Källman & Per Sjösten

**Minis Azaka (4), Pyè Aleman (5), Ayibobo/Ånglar (16)**

Recorded May 2012, Studio Brewhouse by Per Sjösten

Mixed May–June 2012, at Sound Processing Studio by Per Sjösten

Producers: Sten Källman & Per Sjösten

**Priyè pou Ayiti (12)**

Recorded February 2012 by Jan-Olof Granqvist in Kay Jakmel

**PHOTOS:** Dolf Rabus (front and back cover, booklet front, back and p. 13). Jean-Baptiste Guyto (p. 2), Erland Segerstedt (p. 7), Jan-Olof Granqvist (p. 11), Josef Andersen & Filip Rasmusson (p. 14–15),

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